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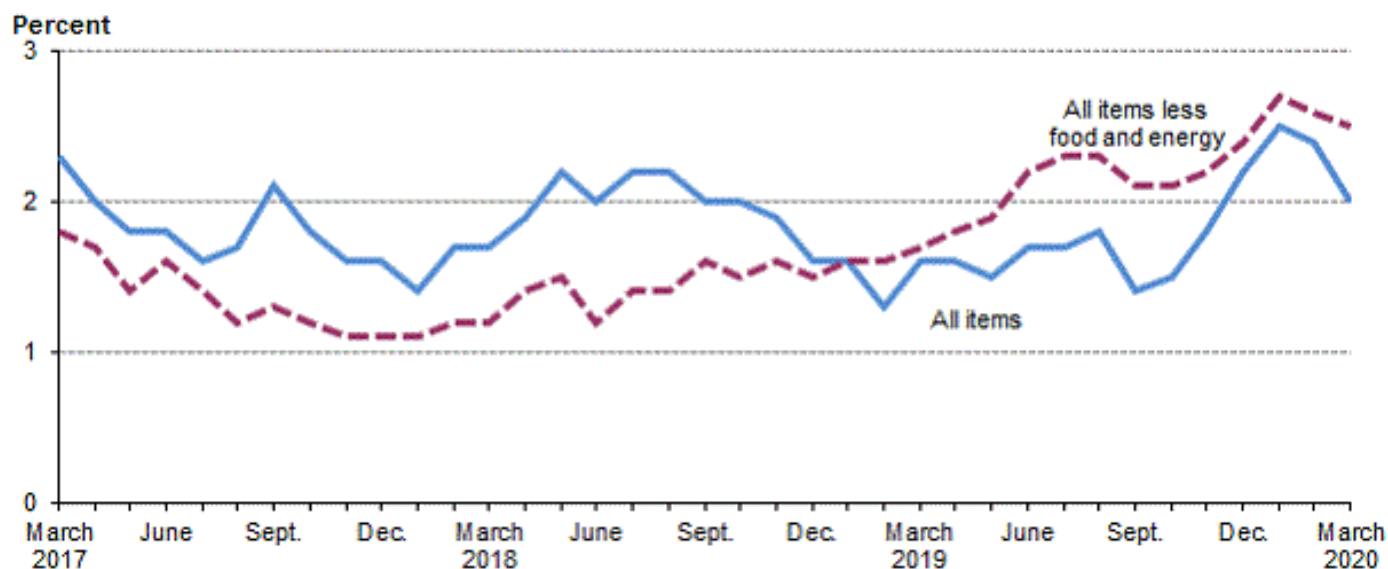
Consumer Price Index, New York-Newark-Jersey City – March 2020

Area prices down 0.2 percent over the month and up 2.0 percent over the year

Prices in the New York-Newark-Jersey City area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), inched down 0.2 percent in March, after rising 0.2 percent in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli noted that the decrease was driven by falling energy prices. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the year, the CPI-U advanced 2.0 percent. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.5 percent. (See [table A](#) and [chart 1](#).) Price increases for shelter drove the 12-month change in both indexes. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Newark-Jersey City, March 2017–March 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index edged up 0.1 percent in March, after no change in February. Grocery prices rose 0.2 percent, with price increases in the meats, poultry, fish, and eggs index—including higher prices for chicken—driving the increase. Prices for food away from home were flat.

Over the year, the food index increased 1.3 percent. Prices for food away from home were up 2.2 percent, and prices for food at home rose 0.6 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 3.7 percent in March, following a 2.3-percent decline in February. Gasoline prices fell 5.4 percent over the month. Household energy prices declined 2.6 percent, with lower prices for electricity (-1.5 percent) and fuel oil and other fuels. Natural gas prices were unchanged.

Energy prices were down 4.3 percent over the year, with decreases reported for gasoline (-5.7 percent), natural gas (-2.2 percent), and electricity (-1.5 percent).

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was flat in March, after rising 0.4 percent in February and 0.8 percent in January. Shelter prices rose 0.3 percent, with price increases for lodging away from home, residential rent (0.2 percent), and owners' equivalent rent (0.2 percent). Prices increases were also reported for recreation (0.7 percent) and used cars and trucks (2.2 percent). Offsetting these increases, price declines were reported for public transportation—including airline fares—apparel (-1.7 percent), new vehicles (-0.5 percent), and medical care commodities, among other items.

From March 2019 to March 2020, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.5 percent. A 2.6-percent increase in shelter prices included a 2.6-percent rise in residential rent and a 2.5-percent increase in owners' equivalent rent. Medical care prices rose 5.3 percent, and recreation rose 4.7 percent. A 4.3-percent rise in prices for tuition, other school fees, and childcare contributed to a 3.1-percent increase in prices for education and communication.

Table A. New York-Newark-Jersey City CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.1	-0.5	0.2	0.8	0.6	2.5	0.4	1.4	0.5	1.6	0.8	2.5
February.....	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3	2.6	0.5	1.7	0.2	1.3	0.2	2.4
March.....	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.7	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.7	0.3	1.6	-0.2	2.0
April.....	0.1	0.0	0.4	1.0	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.9	0.3	1.6		
May.....	0.4	-0.1	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.8	0.4	2.2	0.2	1.5		
June.....	0.2	0.1	0.2 ^(r)	0.9 ^(r)	0.2	1.8	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.7		
July.....	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.0	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.2	0.0	1.7		
August.....	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.7	0.1	2.2	0.2	1.8		
September.....	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.0	0.5	2.1	0.4	2.0	0.0	1.4		
October.....	-0.1	0.4	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.8	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.5		
November.....	-0.2	0.6	0.2	1.6	-0.1	1.6	-0.2	1.9	0.1	1.8		
December.....	-0.4	0.7	0.1	2.1	0.1	1.6	-0.2	1.6	0.1	2.2		

Footnotes:
(R) = revised.

CPI-W

In March, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 275.913, down 0.2 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 1.8 percent over the year.

The April 2020 Consumer Price Index for New York-Newark-Jersey City is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on March 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) program suspended data collection by personal visit on March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in March was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices being considered temporarily unavailable and imputed. While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at www.bls.gov/bls/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-bls-price-indexes.htm#CPI. Specific information about the impact of COVID-19 on March 2020 CPI data collection is available at www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/covid19-statement-march-2020.htm.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE:Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The New York-Newark-Jersey City, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa., Core Based Statistical Area includes Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties in New York; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Union Counties in New Jersey; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, not seasonally adjusted (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	March 2020	March 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items	282.020	282.577	281.975	2.0	0.0	-0.2
All items (1967=100)	815.281	816.892	815.152			
Food and beverages	274.084	274.109	274.523	1.4	0.2	0.2
Food	274.070	274.120	274.371	1.3	0.1	0.1
Food at home	261.131	260.651	261.184	0.6	0.0	0.2
Cereals and bakery products	306.081	304.005	303.916	-1.0	-0.7	0.0
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	256.578	257.609	261.942	2.9	2.1	1.7
Dairy and related products	231.648	229.092	228.607	1.3	-1.3	-0.2
Fruits and vegetables	340.468	332.596	330.553	-1.1	-2.9	-0.6
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	254.065	257.741	257.368	3.5	1.3	-0.1
Other food at home	226.667	229.000	228.597	-0.8	0.9	-0.2
Food away from home	299.909	300.707	300.566	2.2	0.2	0.0
Alcoholic beverages	269.654	269.341	271.981	2.9	0.9	1.0
Housing	307.061	307.210	307.537	1.9	0.2	0.1
Shelter	389.790	390.984	392.352	2.6	0.7	0.3
Rent of primary residence	405.906	406.261	406.933	2.6	0.3	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)	397.709	397.890	398.790	2.5	0.3	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2)	397.216	397.398	398.296	2.5	0.3	0.2
Fuels and utilities	198.531	195.727	191.388	-2.5	-3.6	-2.2
Household energy	189.053	185.940	181.048	-3.5	-4.2	-2.6
Energy services	178.787	178.215	176.333	-1.3	-1.4	-1.1
Electricity	176.820	178.913	176.153	-1.5	-0.4	-1.5
Utility (piped) gas service	170.390	164.497	164.509	-2.2	-3.5	0.0
Household furnishings and operations	110.276	108.883	108.719	-1.1	-1.4	-0.2
Apparel	125.131	127.306	125.096	-0.2	0.0	-1.7
Transportation	221.885	221.716	216.549	-0.8	-2.4	-2.3
Private transportation	209.161	207.689	206.133	0.2	-1.4	-0.7
New and used motor vehicles(3)	90.470	90.129	91.029	-0.1	0.6	1.0
New vehicles(1)	206.151	207.401	206.395	1.1	0.1	-0.5
Used cars and trucks(1)	263.204	266.104	271.931	0.7	3.3	2.2
Motor fuel	215.275	208.115	197.019	-5.6	-8.5	-5.3
Gasoline (all types)	214.243	207.070	195.949	-5.7	-8.5	-5.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	212.656	205.231	193.704	-6.2	-8.9	-5.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	224.941	218.955	211.825	-2.3	-5.8	-3.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	227.640	222.350	213.898	-2.1	-6.0	-3.8
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	782.017	790.503	792.842	3.9	1.4	0.3
Medical care	523.628	529.911	530.628	5.3	1.3	0.1
Recreation(3)	128.629	129.424	130.358	4.7	1.3	0.7
Education and communication(3)	148.031	147.979	148.035	3.1	0.0	0.0
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1)	1,241.750	1,256.467	1,256.467	4.3	1.2	0.0
Other goods and services	440.288	441.273	440.648	1.3	0.1	-0.1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, not seasonally adjusted (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	March 2020	March 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020
Commodity and service group						
All items	282.020	282.577	281.975	2.0	0.0	-0.2
Commodities	192.635	191.973	190.403	-0.3	-1.2	-0.8
Commodities less food and beverages	143.937	143.006	140.638	-1.7	-2.3	-1.7
Nondurables less food and beverages	184.854	183.067	178.482	-2.1	-3.4	-2.5
Durables	92.779	92.708	92.559	-1.2	-0.2	-0.2
Services	356.925	358.410	358.515	2.8	0.4	0.0
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	271.530	271.847	271.191	1.7	-0.1	-0.2
All items less shelter	239.249	239.554	238.170	1.5	-0.5	-0.6
Commodities less food	148.602	147.685	145.452	-1.5	-2.1	-1.5
Nondurables	230.748	229.808	227.565	-0.1	-1.4	-1.0
Nondurables less food	189.961	188.257	184.087	-1.7	-3.1	-2.2
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	332.594	334.401	333.199	3.1	0.2	-0.4
Services less medical care services	342.543	343.722	343.745	2.4	0.4	0.0
Energy	201.655	196.980	189.692	-4.3	-5.9	-3.7
All items less energy	291.832	292.832	292.781	2.3	0.3	0.0
All items less food and energy	296.892	298.055	297.954	2.5	0.4	0.0

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.
- (2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.
- (3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- (4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
- (5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.